AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. [Currently amended] Apparatus for reconditioning a protective coating on a digital disc carrying data beneath said protective coating, said apparatus comprising at least one tool at a first workstation being operable to be brought into contact with said protective coating and to remove a portion of said protective coating without removal of said data underlying said protective coating, said one tool being a protective overlay removal tool operable to remove a portion of said protective coating without damage to said underlying data, and a digital disc processing advancement mechanism operable to allow said digital disc to be operated upon at both said first workstation and at a second and successive workstation, said digital disc processing advancement mechanism and either digital disc or said workstation providing relative rotational movement between said digital disc and each of said workstations.

2. [Original] Apparatus as in claim 1 wherein said disc advancement mechanism comprises a suction tool to grasp said digital disc at said first workstation and to deposit said digital disc at said second workstation.

3. [Original] Apparatus as in claim 2 wherein said suction tool is connected to a movable member, said movable member being movable relative to said first and second workstations.

4. [Original] Apparatus as in claim 3 wherein said movable member is a shaft having a longitudinal axis, said shaft being rotatable about said longitudinal axis and being reciprocal along said longitudinal axis.

5. [Original] Apparatus as in claim 4 and further comprising a feed area to feed said digital discs to said first and second workstations, said feed area comprising a cartridge to hold a plurality of said digital discs.

6. [Original] Apparatus as in claim 5 wherein said first and second workstations are defined by a first and second turntable, respectively, said suction tools depositing and removing said digital discs from said first and second turntables.

7. [Original] Apparatus as in claim 6 wherein said first and second workstations are further defined by a first and second set of work tools, respectively, said first set of work tools being operable on said digital disc to remove material from said protective coating.

8. [Original] Apparatus as in claim 7 wherein said second set of work tools are operable on said digital disc to rinse said digital disc of said removed material.

9. [Original] Apparatus as in claim 8 and further comprising a third workstation and a third set of work tools operably associated with said third workstation, said third set of work tools being operable to polish said protective coating on said digital disc.

10. [Original] Apparatus as in claim 9 wherein said feed area further comprises a turntable, said turntable being rotatable between a load position wherein said digital disc is retrieved from said cartridge and an unload position wherein said digital disc is removed from said turntable.

11. [Original] Apparatus as in claim 10 wherein said digital disc is removed from said turntable by said suction tools.

12. [Original] Apparatus as in claim 11 wherein

said work tools are mounted on a head, said head being vertically movable relative to said turntables, at least some of said work tools being rotatable relative to said head.

13. [Original] Apparatus as in claim 12 wherein said work tools form a plurality of sets, each of said sets of work tools being independently driven relative to said remaining ones of said sets of work tools.

14. [Original] Apparatus as in claim 13 wherein said shaft has an internal cavity, said cavity having a negative or suction pressure, said negative pressure being applied to said suction tools from said internal cavity of said shaft.

15. [Original] Apparatus as in claim 14 and further comprising a receiving cartridge, said receiving cartridge receiving said digital disc following the last one of said plurality of workstations.

16. [Currently amended] Method for reconditioning a protective coating on a compact disc with data underlying said protective coating, said method comprising positioning said disc in a first workstation, bringing a first tool into contact with said protective coating in a first operation to remove a portion of said protective coating without damaging said underlying data [and], subsequently operating upon said protective coating of said compact disc at a subsequent work station when said first tool has completed said first operation by automatic movement between said first and subsequent workstations, there being relative rotational movement allowed between said digital disc and said workstation at each of said workstations by said automatic movement between said first and subsequent workstations.

17. [Original] Method as in claim 16 wherein said digital disc is transferred from said first to said second workstation by a suction member.

18. [Original] Method as in claim 17 and further comprising removing damaged protective layer from said digital disc in said first workstation.

19. [Currently amended] Method of reconditioning a plurality of digital discs which have had protective coatings damaged thereby resulting in a misread or a non-read of data on said discs underlying said protective coatings, said method comprising obtaining said digital discs from a source of digital discs, transferring said digital discs from said source to a protective coating reconditioning machine, reconditioning said protective coatings of said digital discs in said reconditioning machine by the removal of a predetermined amount of said protective coating at a first workstation without damaging said underlying data and automatically working on said discs at a second and successive workstation in a reconditioning process to obtain reconditioned discs and returning said reconditioned discs to said source, there being relative rotational movement allowed between said digital disc and said workstation at each of said workstations by said automatic movement between said first and subsequent workstations.

20. [Cancelled]